

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Apollo Metals Ltd.

Manufacturers Resource Center

Apollo Shrinks Material and Labor Costs with New Stretch Wrapping Process

Client Profile:

Apollo Metals, Ltd., located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, employs nearly 125 people to produce chrome, nickel, brass, and copper plated steel, among a variety of pre-polished and non-ferrous metals. These metals have applications for a broad range of mass-produced products, including appliances, automotive components, lighting fixtures, giftware, decorative hardware, and product trim.

Situation:

Apollo Metals had received customer complaints regarding the stretch wrapping of its products and product sweat in transit. The company contacted the Manufacturers Resource Center (MRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

The MRC Lean6 Team conducted a Kaizen Event in Apollo Metals' packaging area. The Kaizen process identified the need to replace the manual, shrink wrapping process with an automated, inline stretch wrapping machine to allow the operator to index the coil onto the stretch wrap machine and release from the stretch wrap after it is wrapped. As a result of improving the quality of their packaging process, the company has not received any claims for cargo sweat.

Results:

- * Anticipated \$33,000 in savings on material and labor.
- * Received no complaints from customers on product.

Testimonial:

"With the assistance of the MRC, we have enhanced our ability to compete globally and to maintain our customer base. We are in the process of a two-year Lean6 Transformation with the MRC to fully utilize Lean Manufacturing principles throughout our company."

Remco Blaauw, President